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State Urgently Probes Policy Document Leak

United Press International

The State Department has launched an urgent investigation into the leaking of some classified documents on U.S. policy toward South Africa, a spokesman said yesterday.

Spokesman David Passage said it is "contemptible and reprehensible" for a Foreign Service officer to try to influence policy by leaking classified working papers.

The investigation was triggered by the appearance in The Washington Post of several draft memos laying out the U.S. intention "to open a new chapter" in relations with South Africa.

In that policy, the United States expressed its willingness to open a new period of "constructive engagement" with the South African government, on the condition that South Africa cooperate in trying to reach an internationally acceptable solution for South West Africa (Namibia).